

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, EASTERN DIVISION**

EDELSON PC,

Plaintiff,

v.

THE BANDAS LAW FIRM PC, et al

Defendants.

Case No. 1:16-cv-11057

FINAL JUDGMENT ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ADJUDGED and DECREED that final judgment is entered in this matter on Count V of Plaintiff Edelson PC's complaint in favor of Plaintiff and against Christopher Bandas and the Bandas Law Firm PC ("Defendants").

I. REASONS FOR ISSUANCE OF INJUNCTION

Defendants do not dispute that they engaged in the unauthorized practice of law in *Clark v. Gannett Co., Inc.* Defendants further do not dispute that they engaged in the following conduct without obtaining authorization from the Illinois Supreme Court to practice law in Illinois: agreeing to represent Gary Stewart in the *Gannett* litigation, drafting the objection of Stewart in *Gannett*, providing legal advice to Stewart related to *Gannett*, contacting and arranging for C. Jeffrey Thut to appear in Defendants' stead in *Gannett*, allowing C. Jeffrey Thut to assist Defendants in the unauthorized practice of law, representing Stewart in discussions with class counsel regarding Stewart's objection, entering into negotiations with class counsel in *Gannett* on behalf of Stewart, and agreeing to resolve Stewart's objection in exchange for \$225,000 in

attorneys' fees with no changes to the settlement agreement. Accordingly, the Court finds that issuance of a permanent injunction against Defendants is appropriate.

II. ACTS RESTRAINED OR REQUIRED

Defendants The Bandas Law Firm, P.C. and Christopher A. Bandas are hereby restrained and permanently enjoined from engaging in the following actions:

1. Providing any advice or other service requiring the use of any degree of legal skill or knowledge related to any state or federal court proceedings in the State of Illinois, regardless of whether Defendants or their clients are physically located within the State of Illinois, without obtaining admission to the bar of Illinois or leave to appear *pro hac vice* from the court before which the proceeding is pending. The restrained advice and services include but are not limited to providing legal advice, acting as general counsel, drafting documents, negotiating, or accepting payment of attorneys' fees.
2. Soliciting attorneys located in the State of Illinois to sign pleadings or other documents drafted by Defendants in a case where Defendants do not appear;
3. Paying, or offering to pay, or to loan any client any monies in connection with any class action objection unless such payment is awarded or expressly approved by a court;
4. Seeking admission, *pro hac vice* or otherwise, to practice in any state or federal court without fully and truthfully responding to all questions on the application and without attaching a copy of this judgment;
5. Defendants shall not file or cause to be filed any objection to any proposed class action settlement in any state or federal court unless:

a. Such objection states whether it applies only to the objector, to a specific subset of the class, or to the entire class, and also states with specificity the grounds for the objection; and

b. Any payment in connection with the objection is disclosed and approved by the court and, unless approved by the court after a hearing, no payment or other consideration is provided in connection with forgoing or withdrawing the objection or forgoing dismissing, or abandoning an appeal from a judgment approving the proposal;

6. Defendants, having consulted with their clients, shall immediately and unconditionally withdraw objections and filings related thereto any and all objections now pending in Illinois state and federal courts, including *Clark v. Gannett Co., Inc.* Defendants shall have no further direct or indirect involvement in those matters, and Defendants shall accept no compensation of any kind related to those matters.

III. CONTINUING JURISDICTION

Without affecting the finality of this judgment, the Court retains jurisdiction to enforce the injunction set forth herein.

IV. COSTS

Defendants shall pay Plaintiff's costs in the amount of \$5,447.65.

V. NO JUST REASON FOR DELAY

The Court finds pursuant to Rule 54(b) that is no just reason for delay of entry of this judgment.

IT IS SO ORDERED.


REBECCA R. PALLMEYER
United States District Judge

JUDGMENT ENTERED: January 17, 2019

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS